

predetermined number of data items of all data items to be transferred without interruption based on said predetermined period of time [during which said data transfer means is allowed to continuously occupy the bus];

first determination means for determining if the first predetermined number of data items have been transferred; [and]

bus release instruction means for outputting a signal instructing said bus master to release the bus based on whether or not there is a request from a first device after it is determined that the first predetermined number of data items have been transferred[.]; and

bus release means for releasing the bus by the bus master when said bus master
release instruction means outputs ^{said} and signal instructing said bus master to release the bus.

REMARKS

The undersigned respectfully thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the brief telephone interview on June 23, 1999. Petitioner also wishes to thank the Examiner for her indication that the claims, as amended herein, are allowable over the prior art and in conformance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Respectfully submitted,

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